

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

1 - 11 (cancelled)

12. (previously presented) An interactive stub apparatus for testing a program for executing a process with externally given data, comprising:

a computer comprising:

an electronic text parsing unit parsing an electronic text transmitted from a program to be tested to detect a required data item; and

an electronic text data setting unit embedding an input data value, which corresponds to the detected data item, in an electronic text to be transmitted to a side of the program to be tested;

wherein

a stub-call means to invoke the stub apparatus is provided in the program to be tested;

the electronic text includes attribute information including a name, a type, an allowable format, and an allowable size of the required data item;

a time point of the transmission of the electronic text from the program to be tested to the stub apparatus is at the same time as or later than a point when the stub apparatus is invoked; and

the transmission of the electronic text from the program to be tested to the stub apparatus precedes a point when information is transmitted from the stub apparatus to the program to be tested firstly after the point when the stub apparatus is invoked.

13. (previously presented) A computer-readable portable storage medium, which is used by a computer for testing a program for executing a process with externally given data and on which is recorded a stub program for causing the computer to execute a process, the process comprising:

parsing an electronic text transmitted from a program to be tested to detect a required data item; and

embedding an input data value, which corresponds to the detected data item, in an electronic text to be transmitted to a side of the program to be tested;

wherein

a stub-call means to invoke the stub program is provided in the program to be tested;

the electronic text includes attribute information including a name, a type, an allowable format, and an allowable size of the required data item;

a time point of the transmission of the electronic text from the program to be tested to the stub program is at the same time as or later than a point when the stub program is invoked; and

the transmission of the electronic text from the program to be tested to the stub program precedes a point when information is transmitted from the stub program to the program to be tested firstly after the point when the stub program is invoked.

14. (cancelled)

15. (previously presented) A method testing a program for executing a process with externally given data, comprising:

parsing an electronic text transmitted from a program to be tested to detect a required data item; and

embedding an input data value, which corresponds to the detected data item, in an electronic text to be transmitted to a side of the program to be tested;

wherein

the method is invoked by the program to be tested;

the electronic text includes attribute information including a name, a type, an allowable format, and an allowable size of the required data item;

a time point of the transmission of the electronic text from the program to be tested is at the same time as or later than a point when the method is invoked; and

the transmission of the electronic text from the program to be tested precedes a point when information is transmitted to the program to be tested firstly after the point when the method is invoked.

16. (previously presented) A stub apparatus for testing a program for executing a process with externally given data, comprising:

a computer comprising:

electronic text parsing means for parsing an electronic text transmitted from a program to be tested to detect a required data item; and

electronic text data setting means for embedding an input data value, which corresponds to the detected data item, in an electronic text to be transmitted to a side of the program to be tested;

wherein

a stub-call means to invoke the stub apparatus is provided in the program to be tested;

the electronic text includes attribute information including a name, a type, an allowable format, and an allowable size of the required data item;

a time point of the transmission of the electronic text, from the program to be tested to the stub apparatus is at the same time as or later than a point when the stub apparatus is invoked; and

the transmission of the electronic text from the program to be tested to the stub apparatus precedes a point when information is transmitted from the stub apparatus to the program to be tested firstly after the point when the stub apparatus is invoked.

17. (cancelled)